

March 21, 2018

Exhibit 10

Montana Brittany Club statement principles:

1. Well-bred/trained dogs preserve game birds and provide optimum hunting experiences for our Montana hunters. Therefore, individual/private hunting dog training and professional dog training should be encouraged to flourish in Montana.

Well bred/trained dogs hunt in control of the hunter, do not chase/harass birds, provide closer better shots for the hunter and find a higher percent of downed birds so less birds are wasted.

2. Hunting dog events such as field trials, hunt tests, shoot to retrieve, natural ability tests, help create and encourage well trained hunting dogs and provide the breeding stock that all hunters depend on for good quality dogs - therefore should be encouraged in Montana.

-When it comes to regulations, we feel that "good quality less, is more."

-We feel that the State should not regulate hunting dog training on private lands.

-We feel that the State should not regulate hunting dog training on public lands except on areas with special game bird management criteria.

-We feel that training times/dates should not be regulated. The vast majority of hunters and trainers do not want to damage the game bird population in any way!

If anything, we would rather see a short regulation about not harassing nesting and young flightless game birds - that could be enforced on an individual basis.

We would like to see the following changes (strike-outs) below:

Montana Code Annotated 2017

TITLE 87. FISH AND WILDLIFE
CHAPTER 4. COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Part 9. Game Bird Farms

Field Trials – Permits

87-4-915. Field trials -- permits. (1) As used in this section, "field trial" means an examination to determine the ability of dogs to point, flush, or retrieve game birds.

(2) Applicants for a permit to conduct a field trial shall apply to the director upon a form furnished by the department for that purpose. The application must be signed and sworn to by the applicant, stating the applicant's

name and address, the name and address of any national affiliate, the place for the field trial clearly defined, the date or dates of the proposed field trial, whether live birds are to be used, and any other information required by the director to determine the advisability of granting permission for the proposed field trial. ~~The application must state that if a permit is granted, the applicant will carefully flush all wild game birds from fields used for the field trial each day before the field trial begins and will not permit dogs to run free in fields that have not been carefully flushed.~~ The application must be presented to the director not less than 20 days prior to the date proposed for the field trial.

(3) The director may refuse any application that the director determines is not in the best interests of the protection, preservation, propagation, and conservation of game birds in this state. Any denial by the director of an application must state the reasons for denial and must be mailed to the applicant within 10 days of receipt of the application.

(4) ~~All live game birds used in a field trial must be tagged before being planted or released and may be planted or released only in the presence of a representative of the department. If an untagged bird is shot during any field trial, the person to whom the permit was issued shall immediately replace it with a live bird.~~

(5) (a) Dogs may be trained in open fields at any time without permission of the director only if:

(i) live game birds are not killed or captured during training; and

(ii) ~~the training is more than 1 mile from any bird nesting or management area or game preserve.~~

(b) A person may train dogs with a method that will kill birds acquired from a game bird farm ~~only after receiving a written permit from the department and only in compliance with the terms of the permit.~~

Thanks,
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Montana Brittany Club

Sent from Mail for Windows 10